Message Text

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05
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DRAFTED BY OPIC/F JDBANKS
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
EB/IFD/OIA:DVGRANT
                ------------------019544 181645Z /46
P 181553Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 126234

FROM OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: VISIT BY OPIC FINANCE OFFICER

1. REQUEST EMBASSY CONCURRENCE AND GUIDANCE FOR INITIAL
VISIT OF JAMES BANKS, OPIC FINANCE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR
LIBERIA. TENTATIVELY, BANKS PLANNING ARRIVE MAY 28 ON
PAN AM FLIGHT 198 FROM NEW YORK, DEPARTING JUNE 4 ON PAN AM
198 TO ACCRA. CONFIRMATION OF FLIGHT SCHEDULE AND SPECIFIC
APPOINTMENTS REQUESTED TO FOLLOW SEPTEL. VISIT BEING MADE
IN FOLLOW-UP TO SERIES OF RECENT CONFERENCES IN U.S. BY
GOL OFFICIALS ON INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN LIBERIA, AND
IN ANTICIPATION GREATER U.S. BUSINESS INTEREST IN COUNTRY.

2. PRIMARY OBJECTIVES ARE THREEFOLD: (I) GENERAL COUNTRY
FAMILIARIZATION AND ASSESS CURRENT CLIMATE FOR U.S. INVEST-
MENT; (II) IDENTIFY A FEW SPECIFIC AND REALISTIC OPPOR-
TUNITIES FOR U.S. INVESTMENT WHICH CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN
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NEAR-TERM; AND (III) INVESTIGATE A NUMBER OF PROJECTS OPIC
IS CONSIDERING FOR FINANCING (COCOA AND WOOD PROCESSING,
TEXTILE AND RUBBER GLOVE MANUFACTURE). REGARDING (III)
BANKS CONTACTING U.S. SPONSORS OF PROJECTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN
SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS IN LIBERIA.

3. TARGET GROUPS FOR MEETINGS ARE EMBOFFS, AND GOL

OFFICIALS, COMMERCIAL BANKS AND OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS CON-
CERNED WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENT. IN ADDITION BANKS WOULD
LIKE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING ONE DAY EXCURSION OUT
OF MONROVIA TO TOUR MAJOR INVESTMENT PROJECT SUCH AS IRON
MINE, RUBBER PLANTATION OR TIMBER PROCESSING. WOULD TOUR
BE MOST ADVISABLE ACTIVITY FOR MONDAY, MAY 29 WHEN EMBASSY
CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY?

4. REQUEST RESERVATIONS FOR SINGLE ROOM FOR ENTIRE PERIOD
AT INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL. APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS
AND ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO ACCOMPLISH OBJECTIVES THIS
VISIT.   VANCE

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